

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08134 271159Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01  
SES-02 SSM-03 /082 W  
-----122590 271202Z /43

R 270800Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 24  
DIA WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8134

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IR  
SUBJ: NEW CENTRIST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION UNDER PIRASTEH

1. SAYED MEHDI PIRASTEH ANNOUNCED AUG. 21 HE HAS FORMED  
"CONSTITUTION DEFENDERS FRONT". CLAIMING SUPPORT OF 300  
PROMINENT IRANIANS, PIRASTEH PLEDGED TO WORK FOR PROTECTION  
OF FREEDOM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTITUTION. PRESENT  
CONDIDTIONS REQUIRE ENTIRE NATION TO BE MOBILIZED TO DEFEND  
INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF IRAN. "OUR ENDEAVORS WILL BE TO  
FIGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONSTITUTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH TEACHING OF ISLAM. WE ARE OF  
THE CONVICTION THAT EVERY IRANIAN WILL ASSIST US IN THIS  
MISSION."

2. PIRASTEH IS A FORMER VIGOROUS ADMINISTRATOR WHOSE DIFFERENCES  
WITH TOP GOI LEADERS DROVE HIM INTO POLITICAL EXILE  
(DIPLOMATIC SERVICE) IN 1960S. AFTER CAREER IN MINISTRY  
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08134 271159Z

OF JUSTICE, HE JOINED MAJLIS AND WAS BITTER OPPONENT OF  
MOSADEQ'S NATIONAL FRONT. HE HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED  
SHAH'S AUTHORITY. AS GOVERNOR-GERNERAL OF FARS AND THEN  
KHUZISTAN (1959-62) HE MADE REPUTATION AS FLAMBOYANT  
BUT EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR WITH A "NEW BROOM" IMAGE. HE  
ENTERED CABINET AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN 1963, BUT AFTER  
DISPUTES WITH PM MANSUR, HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO

IRAQ. HE WON PRAISE FOR THREE YEARS SERVICE IN DIFFICULT POST, HAVING SUCCEEDED IN REESTABLISHING TIES BETWEEN GOI AND IRAQI SHIITE COMMUNITY. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS.

3. PIRASTEH CARRIES REPUTATION AS HEADLINE GRABBER WHO BACKS UP PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN WITH SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE FAIRLY CLOSE TO SHAH. HE HAS CLAIMED, APPARENTLY WITH JUSTICE, TO ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, AS SHOWN BY SUCCESS IN IRAQ. HE IS PAST PRESIDENT OF IRAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY AND LIKES TO DEAL WITH AMERICANS.

4. COMMENT: SEVERAL OPPOSITIONISTS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THE PIRASTEH IS CONSIDERED TOO CLOSE TO SHAH TO BE EFFECTIVE IN NEW ROLE. IN ANY CASE, FORMATION OF FRONT W WAS ANNOUNCED JUST DAYS BEFORE PROJECTED AUG. 27 CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTER, PIRASTEH IS ONE MAJOR FIGURE QUOTED APPROVINGLY ON SHARIF-EMAMI APPOINTMENT, AND FRONT'S FUTURE MUST BE RECKONED UNCERTAIN AT THIS POINT.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** NEW CENTRIST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION UNDER PIRASTEH  
**TAGS:** PINT, IR, CONSTITUTION DEFENDERS FRONT  
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